

Mr. Graves of Missouri; Mrs. Miller of Michigan; Mr. Hunter; Mr. Crawford; Mr. Barletta; Mr. Farenthold; Mr. Gibbs; Mr. Hanna; Mr. Webster of Florida; Mr. Denham; Mr. Ribble; Mr. Massie; Mr. Rice of South Carolina; Mr. Meadows; Mr. Perry; Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois; Mr. Sanford; Mr. Woodall; Mr. Rokita; Mr. Katko; Mr. Babin; Mr. Hardy; Mr. Costello of Pennsylvania; Mr. Graves of Louisiana; Mrs. Mimi Walters of California; Mrs. Comstock; Mr. Curbelo of Florida; Mr. Rouzer; and Mr. Zeldin.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Lamborn; Mr. Bilirakis; Mr. Roe of Tennessee; Mr. Benishek; Mr. Huelskamp; Mr. Coffman; Mr. Wenstrup; Mrs. Walorski; Mr. Abraham; Mr. Zeldin; Mr. Costello of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Radewagen; and Mr. Mike Bost of Illinois.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas; Mr. Brady of Texas; Mr. Nunes; Mr. Tiberi; Mr. Reichert; Mr. Boustany; Mr. Roskam; Mr. Tom Price of Georgia; Mr. Buchanan; Mr. Smith of Nebraska; Mr. Schock; Ms. Jenkins of Kansas; Mr. Paulsen; Mr. Marchant; Mrs. Black; Mr. Reed; Mr. Young of Indiana; Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania; Mr. Renacci; Mr. Meehan; Mrs. Noem; Mr. Holding; and Mr. Smith of Missouri.

Mr. MESSER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### HONORING ERIC GRANT ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend Eric Grant, an extension agent for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture who will retire this week after 28 years of service to agriculture in my home county, Craighead County.

For nearly three decades, Mr. Grant has faithfully dedicated himself to all aspects of agriculture, including row crops, livestock, horticulture, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H. While Mr. Grant has rightfully earned a reputation throughout northeast Arkansas for knowing his trade, he has done so while cultivating meaningful and lasting relationships as well. Our region's agricultural producers and families have not only contacted him seeking information from a trusted adviser, they have also reached out to him as friends.

I can speak from experience about how Mr. Grant has helped me throughout the years, whether it involved my

service as a TV news reporter, a farm broadcaster on the radio, or a legislator in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As Mr. Grant prepares to retire on Thursday, I wish him many days that reflect his outstanding service to Craighead County agriculture. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of northeast Arkansas in honoring the service of Eric Grant and wishing him a happy retirement.

#### THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE REAUTHORIZED

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the House to immediately take up legislation to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program.

For more than 100 years, the Federal Government has recognized the financial stresses that national forest land puts on local communities. The failure of Congress to reauthorize this program at the end of the last Congress has resulted in significant budget gaps and enormous uncertainty for county governments in my State and throughout the country.

School districts across the country are poring over their books, figuring out how to scale back essential services that they provide to students, to our kids, and to their families.

In Washington State, one county has seen its budget for the sheriff's office cut in half, making layoffs inevitable. The region I represent, Jefferson County, is now struggling to repair a key access road that was washed out from a storm.

Without Secure Rural Schools funding to complete the repairs, the county is left hoping a State emergency declaration will provide needed funds. Other counties are facing similar projects in limbo.

Mr. Speaker, let's maintain our Federal obligation to rural and timber communities and work in a bipartisan fashion to pass legislation that reauthorizes and funds this critical program as soon as possible.

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TERM LIMITS

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, it is a true honor to be here today, and I am humbled to serve in Washington following the Honorable Howard Coble. Before ever arriving in these hallowed Halls, I made a promise to always put the people before the politics.

Each day upon entering this most historic place, I am reminded that this House belongs to the people. This past November, these same individuals voiced their strong desire for change—real change—with fresh faces and new ideas.

As part of my commitment, I have joined several of my colleagues in supporting term limits for Members of Congress. As Members, we must always stay connected with our constituents without falling prey to special interests.

It is not always the most popular of choices, but I was sent to Washington to serve the people, and I believe that term limits are needed to ensure that we never lose sight of why we are here.

#### RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE NOW

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, 29 States, including my home State of New York, and the District of Columbia guarantee a minimum wage higher than that required by Federal law. These States recognize that \$7.25 an hour is not enough to support an individual or a family of four's basic needs. No American who works full time should have to live in poverty.

Because the minimum wage has not kept pace with inflation, today, it holds less buying power than it did in 1981. This is unacceptable. Raising the minimum wage will not only increase earnings for millions, but it will also increase consumer demand by bolstering the purchasing power of low-income Americans.

Eighty-eight percent of those who would benefit from a Federal minimum wage increase are 20 years old or older and 55 percent are women. While New York is on track to increase its minimum wage to \$9 by 2016, State-by-State increases are not enough. Sixteen States remain at or below the Federal level, and disparities between the States creates economic uncertainty.

The time to raise the Federal minimum wage is now.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S IMMIGRATION ACTIONS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our opportunity as a Congress to stop an unconstitutional action by the President and allow Congress to perform its constitutional responsibilities: to write and create the laws of this great land.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution is clear. It is Congress' responsibility to write the law; the President's job is to simply enforce those laws.

Unfortunately, President Obama has initiated some of the largest executive power grabs in American history by unilaterally rewriting our Nation's immigration laws. These actions have ignored the will of the American people.

This week, the House will address those reforms and prevent the President and future Presidents from abusing that authority, breaking the law,